(b) whether this has been necessitated due to the sharp fall in DoT's revenue following the introduction of new tariffs structure by TRAI from May last year; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Available date indicate a downtrend in revenue receipts due to tariff reduction. Keeping this in view and taking into account other factors including approved Plan outlay, the Department has projected a borrowing component of Rs. 2152 crores in BE 2000-2001.

Breaking up of DoT

1260. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to break the state-monopoly in the information technology sector and to corporatise the DoT breaking it into five Telecom Corporations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken in that direction indicating reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There is no state-monopoly in the information technology sector. It is also not proposed to corporatise the DoT by breaking it into five Telecom Corporations. However, in pursuance of the provisions of the New Telecom Policy 1999 to separate the policy and licensing functions from the service provision functions, as a precursor to corporatisation, the Department of Telecom Services, has been created on 15th October, 99 to handle the service provision functions.

Non Delivery of Money Orders

†1261. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding any Money order sent through a Delhi post office that did not reach its destination during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi

(c) whether the complaint were looked into, if so, the details of its outcome;

(d) the details of action taken against guilty officials; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi Postal Circle received the following number of complaints for non-payment of money orders booked from Post Offices in Delhi.

Year	Number of money order complaints received
1997-98	29158
1998-99	62386

(c) As and when complaint relating to delay/non-payment of a money order is received, enquiry is taken up promptly with the paying office to ascertain disposal of the money order. A duplicate money order is issued if no reply is received within 10 days of the issue of enquiry note. As a result of measures taken in redressing public grievances, the following number of money order complaints have been settled during the last two years.

Year	Number of complaints settled during the years including those pending from previous years
1997-98	27308
1998-99	68750

(d) and (e) I. No official was found directly responsible for the money order complaints which were due to technical reasons.

II. Following steps have been taken to curb service and technical faults in money order and improve efficiency of service:

(i) Special drives were launched from time to time to expedite settlement of complaints;

(ii) Field staff have been instructed to verify payment of prescribed number of money orders;

(iii) The officer in-charge of V.SATs have been directed to personally monitor functioning of V.SAT and ensure proper transmission of money orders.

(iv) Software used in the V.SAT network has been improved and a

host computer has been installed for more efficient monitoring of the work of money order transmission through the system.

Recovery of Losses suffered by VSNL and MTNL

†1262. SHRI RAMA SHANKAR KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or are considering to take any step to recover the amount of crores of rupees from a person who had caused this loss to Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and MTNL in the first week of February whereas Government have sent him to jail only;

(b) if so, the details and time-limit thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasosn therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) CBI arrested a person by name of Shri Sunil P. Mittal in the last week of January, 2000 who was subsequently granted bail by the Court in February 2000. The case is with CBI for further detailed investigation and recovery from Shri Mittal shall depend on the results of CBI investigations and the judgement of the Court., Keeping in view the terms of the agreement between VSNL and the party.

Waiving of Licence Fee of Defaulting Telecom Companies

1263. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has recently directed the Department of Telecom to canoel the licences of the defaulting Telecom firms who could not pay their licence fee dues by 31st January, 2000;

(b) if so, the action taken by DoT on such directives made by the Finance Ministry;

(c) the names of the Telecom firms which have not paid their licence fee dues as on 31st January, 2000; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to recover dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, no such direction was received from

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.